

**What is claimed is:**

1. A checkout system comprising:
  - a computer;
  - 5 a barcode reader coupled to the computer for reading a barcode label on an item; and
  - a security system coupled to the computer and activated by the barcode reader following reading of the barcode label including
  - 10 a field generator for deactivating a security label on the item; and
  - a sensor for sensing placement of the item within range of the field generator;
  - wherein the security system initiates display of a
  - 15 message instructing an operator to place the item within a deactivation range of the field generator until the sensor senses the placement.
2. The checkout system as recited in claim 1, wherein the sensor is operational only during self-service checkout operation.
3. A checkout system convertible between assisted-service and self-service checkout operation comprising:
  - a computer;
  - a barcode reader coupled to the computer for reading a
  - 5 barcode label on an item; and
  - a security system coupled to the computer and activated by the barcode reader following reading of the barcode label including

a field generator for deactivating a security  
10 label on the item; and

a pop-up housing moveable between a raised  
position for self-service checkout operation and a recessed  
position for assisted-service checkout operation;

wherein the pop-up housing contains a sensor for  
15 sensing placement of the item within a deactivation range of  
the field generator during self-service checkout operation;  
and

wherein the security system initiates display of a  
message instructing a self-service customer to place the  
20 item within the deactivation range of the field generator  
until the sensor senses the placement during self-service  
checkout operation.

4. A product security system comprising:

a field generator for deactivating a security label on  
an item; and

a pop-up housing moveable between a raised position for  
5 self-service checkout operation and a recessed position for  
assisted-service checkout operation;

wherein the pop-up housing contains a sensor for  
sensing placement of the item within a deactivation range of  
the field generator during self-service checkout operation;  
10 and

wherein the security system initiates display of a  
message instructing a self-service customer to place the  
item within the deactivation range of the field generator  
until the sensor senses the placement during self-service  
15 checkout operation.

5. A transaction method comprising the steps of:  
reading a barcode label on an item by a barcode reader;  
obtaining barcode information from the barcode reader  
by a computer;

5       activating a field generator for deactivating a  
security label on the item by the computer;  
determining whether the item comes within a  
deactivation range of the field generator by the computer;  
and

10       if the item does not come within the deactivation  
range, initiating display of a message instructing an  
operator to place the item within the deactivation range of  
the field generator.

6. A transaction method comprising the steps of:  
positioning a sensor to identify an item within a  
deactivation range of a field generator;

5       reading a barcode label on the item by a barcode  
reader;

obtaining barcode information from the barcode reader  
by a computer;

activating the field generator to deactivate a security  
label on the item by the computer;

10       determining from the sensor whether the item comes  
within the deactivation range of the field generator by the  
computer; and

15       if the item does not come within the deactivation  
range, initiating display of a message instructing an  
operator to place the item within the deactivation range of  
the field generator.